

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2011

Chairman Hal Rogers
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Norm Dicks
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

As you consider a potential emergency supplemental appropriations bill in response to the unfortunate recent natural disasters across our Nation, we urge you to recognize the critical nature and current situation concerning the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, and other rivers, the ongoing need for increased Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) dredging operations, and the effect that sustained high water has had on the rivers' levee systems.

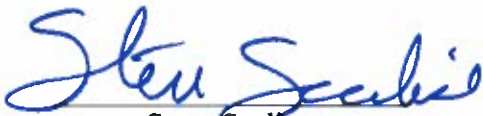
Given the extraordinary high water levels emanating from record flooding throughout the Mississippi River System, inland towing companies, coal and other mineral companies, agricultural interests, and other stakeholders in that System caution that without additional and immediate dredging funding in the Operations & Maintenance Account, the increased sedimentation and shoaling accompanying these higher water levels will severely restrict maritime traffic.

The 12,000 mile Mississippi River System is relied upon by numerous industries for the transport of materials and goods vital to business operations throughout the country. More than \$100 billion of cargo alone is exported annually by way of the Mississippi River, which is the economic driver for many local economies across the Nation. Without adequate dredging maintenance, the continuance of this and other economic activity sustained by the Mississippi River System would be jeopardized.

In addition, our levee systems have suffered from record flooding. Many areas along the river and its tributaries have seen seepage and sand boils which weaken the system. Flood walls have been strained, and floodways and spillways have been put into operation. As the flood continues down river, the weaknesses will continue to grow as well as the number of homes and lives impacted.

We strongly urge you to consider the effect of the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, and other rivers on local economies across the country and the impact that recent disasters have had on them and their respective levee systems as you draft an emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



Charles Boustany, M.D.
Member of Congress



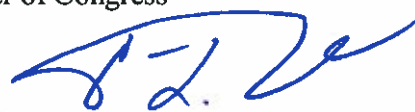
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jeff Landry
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress